

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending in this application, with Claims 1 and 6 being independent. Claims 1 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dailey (WO 00/69190) in view of Alisobhani et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,760,393 filed 5-4-2000). Claims 2-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dailey (WO 00/69190) in view of Alisobhani, and further in view of Ohashi (U.S. Patent) 6,467,059).

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended as set forth herein to include the step of checking whether a called mobile station had reported that it supports half-duplex communications when it registered in a network.

The present application provides for a data communication method for a mobile communication system for reducing the consumption of resources when a desirable half-duplex data connection is provided. The service is provided only to at least two mobile stations located within the service area of one Base Transmit Subsystem (BTS). Prior to assigning one common physical half-duplex data channel to the at least two mobile stations within the service area of the BTS, the called mobile stations must report that they support half-duplex data communication. If the data is to be transmitted to the at least two mobile stations over a downlink channel of the half-duplex data channel, a header is added to the data to identify the recipient mobile station.

Dailey recites a method for providing communications between a plurality of terminals, within a predefined, group over a cellular communication system including assigning a traffic channel for half-duplex communication between the terminals. Dailey also provides a half-duplex communication method for a plurality of mobile terminals within a common cell serviced by a single radio base station, where communications are simplified because the control messages associated with out of cell interfaces are reduced. However, even in this arrangement where the mobile stations are within one cell, the mobile stations must be members of a predefined group. Such a grouping system requires a group server, a group data base, a group bridge, a router, and a tracking database, beyond the normal location and tracking mechanisms and information maintained within the Home Location Registry (HLR) (See Fig. 6.). As such, Dailey does not teach determining whether data communication is needed between at least two mobile stations located in the service area of one BTS and determining if a called mobile station had reported that it support half-duplex data communication when it registered in a network, as

recited in Claims 1 and 6 of the present application. Dailey simply determines whether a call is initiated to a particular group.

Alisobhani recites a spread-spectrum GMSK-ART radio with oscillator frequency correction, which supports various transmission modes including half- duplex transmission between a mobile radio and a base. The Examiner relies on Alisobhani to remedy Dailey's failure to teach "data" communication and adding headers to the downlink transmissions for addressing. However, Alisobhani provides not teach determining if data communication is needed between at least two mobile stations located in the service area of one BTS and determining if a called mobile station had reported that it support half-duplex data communication when it registered in a network.

Because Dailey and Alisobhani, alone or in combination, do not teach determining if data communication is needed between at least two mobile stations located in the service area of one BTS and determining if a called mobile station had reported that it support half-duplex data communication when it registered in a network, Claims 1 and 6 are patentably distinct from the cited references. Based on the above arguments, Claims 1 and 6 are believed to be in condition for allowance. While not conceding the patentability, per se, of the dependent claims, Claims 2-5 are also believed to be allowable for at least the above stated reasons.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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